

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 4, 2003

**TO:** Division of Drinking Water Staff  
Division of Drinking Water

**THROUGH:** Robert B. Taylor, P.E., Director  
Division of Drinking Water

**FROM:** G. W. Peaks, P.E., Director of Technical Services  
Division of Drinking Water

**SUBJECT:** Permits and Project Review - Protection/Preservation of Farm and Forest Lands  
Delete Working Memo 392, 399

In 2000 the General Assembly passed House Bill 552 effective July 1, 2000, to amend and reenact Sections 3.1-18.4, 3.1-18.5, 3.1-18.6 and 3.1-18.8 of Title 3.1, Chapter No. 3.2 of the *Code of Virginia*. The legislative findings were that farm and forest lands are being converted to nonagricultural use and the loss of this land undermines the Commonwealth's food and forest production capabilities, and that agricultural, forestry and fiber enterprises comprise a significant segment of the Commonwealth's economy and play a critical role in defining the character of the Commonwealth and their preservation should be encouraged.

Five agencies of the Commonwealth concerned with regulations and undertaking capital projects are to encourage the preservation of farm and forest lands in this connection. The agencies are required to prepare a plan for implementation of preservation of farm and forest lands. A copy of the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) plan is attached which constitutes a suggested handout to owners, engineers, architects, etc., explaining the plan to encourage preservation of lands.

The local and district health departments and the Division of Wastewater Engineering will also be involved in a plan to encourage Protection/Preservation of Farm and Forest Lands.

The Division of Drinking Water is to inform owners of this legislation and encourage owners constructing and replacing water systems, pump stations, treatment plants, impoundment structures, etc., to use land than does not exhibit the characteristics described in the *Code*. This principle of Protection/Preservation of farm and forest lands is to be brought to the attention of the owners and engineering consultants initially, before plans are prepared, at the Preliminary Engineering Conference.

Additionally, waterworks may develop and implement source water protection activities that preserve farm and forest lands, such as adoption of formal protective ordinances, purchase of land/easements (1452 k loans), etc. The Source Water Supervisor will track and report such protection/preservation activities.

Annual reports by the Field Director's and the Source Water Supervisor are to be submitted to this Division to cover the period from July 1 --June 30 inclusive. A reporting form is attached.

GWP/kew

Attachment

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Whom It May Concern

**FROM:** Robert B. Taylor, P.E., Director  
Division of Drinking Water

**DATE:** February 12, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Protection of Farm and Forest Lands

The General Assembly amended and enacted in 2000 the *Code of Virginia*, Sections 3.1-18.4, 3.1-18.5, 3.1-18.6 and 3.1-18.8 of Title 3.1, Chapter No. 3.2, which directed that state agencies, policies and actions where possible, should encourage the preservation of farm and forest lands. The state agencies affected by this bill included the Department of Transportation, the Department of Health, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the State Corporation Commission. These agencies are to prepare plans which contain an analysis of the impact which the agency's regulations and projects have on the conversion of farm and forest lands and to encourage the preservation of such lands.

The Division of Drinking Water's plan is to inform owners and engineering consultants of this legislation and encourage owners constructing and replacing water systems, pump stations, treatment plants, impoundment structures, etc., to use land that does not exhibit the characteristics described in the *Code*, where possible. Additionally, through Source Water Protection activities, the Division will further encourage such farm and forest land protection.

Attachment: Code

RBT/kew

**STATUS REPORT**  
**Protection/Preservation of Farm and Forest Lands**

**TO:** \_\_\_\_\_, P.E., Director of Technical Services  
Division Drinking Water

**FROM:** \_\_\_\_\_, P.E., Engineering Field Director  
Division of Drinking Water or,

**FROM:** \_\_\_\_\_, Source Water Supervisor  
Division of Drinking Water

**DATE:**

This report is forwarded in accordance with Working Memo \_\_\_\_\_ and covers the period 1 July \_\_\_\_\_ to 30 June \_\_\_\_\_.

|                      | <b>Number of Events</b> | <b>Amount of Land Preserved (Acres)</b> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Water Supply Program |                         |   |

**Remarks:**

